

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director of Training EYES ONLY DATE: 1 December 1960

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM : Chief, School of International Communism

SUBJECT: Weekly Activities Report No. 43  
28 November - 1 December 1960

## I. SIGNIFICANT ITEMS

None to report.

## II. OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. [ ] presentation to about twenty-five people at ORR on Wednesday developed some interesting sidelights. First, [ ] felt that while these people were obviously well qualified on matters concerning economic developments in Eastern Europe they were almost completely uninformed concerning non-economic aspects of relationships within the Sino-Soviet Bloc and most receptive to any light which he could shed for them. Second, and perhaps more interesting, they apparently looked upon him as a neutral observer rather than a participant in any Agency internecine struggle and consequently unloaded their troubles upon him. They pointed out with some bitterness that they were made to feel like pariahs not only in their attempted coordination with DDP opposite numbers but even within ORR where they were confined to a subject which no one really regarded of any importance. They were apparently quite concerned about and interested in anything which OTR was doing to break down the barriers. [ ] came away more firmly convinced of the rather enviable position which we in SIC enjoy. We don't pretend or expect to get all the information collected or produced, but we certainly get enough to have a much more catholic approach to the problems of Communism than do many of the DDI or DDP people working in this field.

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2. We received an "emergency" phone call from SR/4 on Wednesday morning. Could we provide a two-hour briefing on the Soviet government to some visitors [ ] that afternoon? We did - [ ] can handle this angle quite adequately, and it turned out that these were the [ ] had been working the previous week.

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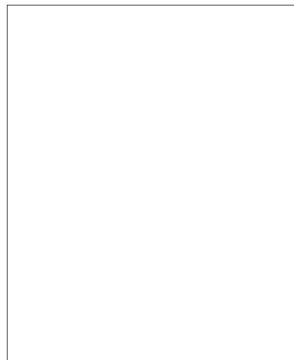
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However, I was a bit curious as to why a two-hour talk on the Soviet government should represent an "emergency" to SR. I checked with [redacted] Deputy Chief of SR/3, who is in our current CPO&O course, F 25X1 who in turn discussed the matter with [redacted] in SR/4. The 25X1 upshot was that this was not the kind of chore which SR felt it was supposed to perform - even in response to a request from another DDP Division. Seems like a curious bit of parochialism.

With reference to SR/4 I am enclosing a memo which we recently received from a student in the last USSR - Basic Survey. This may further assist in our efforts to break down SR's reluctance in sending students to SIC.

3. We have another "crash" request this morning to prepare [redacted] 25X1 from ICG to give a training course in Communism to a group of F Africans - in Africa. He was apparently selected because he speaks 25X1 French rather than for his knowledge of Communism or his capability to prepare or present a training course. We will meet with [redacted] later today to get full details concerning his own background and his requirements from us.

4. Non-Agency Presentations:



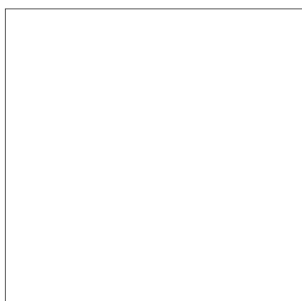
FSI Communism Seminar - 28 November  
"Theoretical Background of Communism" 25X1

FSI Basic FSO Course - 29 November  
"Current Communist Doctrinal Problems"

FSI Communism Seminar - 29 November  
"Political System USSR"

FSI Communism Seminar - 29 November  
"Economic Potential USSR"

5. Tutorial Training:



PM - 29 November - Thai 25X1

AM - 30 November - Thai

PM - 30 November - Iranian

PM - 30 November - Tunisian

AM/PM - 1 December - Iranian



Attachment: As indicated  
in para. 2

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SR/4 - 60 - 460

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**Critique of Training Course USSR - Basic Country Survey**

The duration of this offering of the course was two weeks, full time. The time was divided about evenly between lectures and reading or study periods. (See attached course schedule) Much of the reading consisted of NIE material which tied in rather closely with the lectures.

The course is conducted by the School of International Communism, since practically every subject covered - whether it concerns agriculture, industry, education or whatever is more or less inseparable from the theory and practice of Communism. Some time is devoted to reviewing Russian history, but the rise of the Bolsheviks and the development of the Soviet Union up to the present day is given primary emphasis. Lectures were broken down into subjects, such as education, industry, government structure, and also by periods of time, i.e. Stalin's rule, Malenkov to Khrushchev, etc.

Much of the material was new to me and even the familiar subjects were well worth reviewing. Of particular interest was the coverage of events of the past few years like the decentralization of industrial control, the major agricultural programs, the changes in their system of higher education, and the strengthened role of the Party in practically all phases of Soviet endeavor.

The only possible change that I would suggest in the course is that some study time be sacrificed during the second week in order to permit a few more lectures. This is, of course, a matter of personal preference, since I got more out of a lecture presentation with a chance to ask questions than I got out of reading similar subject matter.

I feel that this course would be useful to most SR Case Officers unless they possess a very comprehensive and current knowledge of the USSR.

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